

U.S. ROUTE 20 (FAP 301)
FROM ILLINOIS ROUTE 84 NORTH OF GALENA
TO BOLTON ROAD NORTHWEST OF FREEPORT IN
JO DAVIESS AND STEPHENSON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)
by the
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
and
Illinois Department of Transportation

Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

May 20, 2003
Date of Approval
5/20/03
Date of Approval

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Abstract: The purpose of the proposed action is to provide an improved transportation system in Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties, to provide a transportation facility that will properly address existing and projected system deficiencies and to improve the safety and efficiency of the existing transportation system. This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) discusses the proposed construction of U.S. Route 20 (FAP 301) with termini at Illinois Route 84 northwest of the city of Galena and at Bolton Road northwest of the city of Freeport. The alternatives investigated include the no-action, and twelve alternates. The alternates consist of two expressway alternates and ten freeway alternates, each of which will be developed as a multi-lane facility. The proposed action will integrate the needs of increased development, system capacity, travel safety, community access, and system continuity. The proposed action will provide a high-type highway with an appropriate connection to the four-lane facility west of Illinois Route 84, and extending 75.6 km (47 miles) to the east, connecting to a previously approved four-lane facility east of Bolton Road, northwest of Freeport. The preferred action is to build a multi-lane facility.

Important issues and socio-economic and environmental concerns related to the proposed action include; displacement of residences, right-of-way, traffic generated noise, agricultural impacts, visual resources, impacts to Section 106 properties, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species habitat. Alternate 2, the Long Hollow Freeway with the South Simmons Mound variation, has been identified as the Preferred Alternate (Alternate 2). Alternate 2 has been determined as best meeting the project Purpose and Need and resulting in the least environmental impacts when compared to the other expressway and freeway alternates. For similar reasons, a U.S. Route 20 Advisory Council has also identified Alternate 2 as the Preferred Alternate (Alternate 2).

Comments on this Draft EIS are due by July 21, 2003, and should be sent to Mr. Gregory L. Mounts, District Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation, 819 Depot Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021-3500.